cording to the New Industrial Policy, both public and private sector are permitted in the Telecom Industry.

(b) No such term has been received by this Ministry from International Monetary Fund;

(c) Draft 8th Plan proposal envisage addition of around 1.80 lakh New Telephone lines in West Bengal during the 8th Plan period.

(d) As on 31.3.91, 369 electronic exchanges were functioning in East Zone (comprising of Orissa Circle, West Bengal Circle/North East circle, Bihar circle and Calcutta Metros district) including 63 electronic exchanges in West Bengal. As regards the number of exchanges proposed for the 8th plan, these have not been firmed up pending finalisation of 8th Five Year Plan.

Agreement Between Orissa Government and Electric Company, USA for Setting Thermal Plant

4105. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANEGRAHI:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Government of Orissa and the Southern Electric Company, USA for Setting up 1500 MW Thermal Plant in IB Valley near Talchar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An MOU between the U.S. based Company namely M/s Southern Electric International Inc., USA and the Govt. of Orissa has since been signed on 13.12. 1991 by which the Govt. of Orissa proposes to arrange for the private construction, ownership and operation of the 2x210 MW electric power generation stations currently under construction at the IB Valley site in Orissa, the 2x210 MW electric power generation stations approved for construction at the IB Valley site, and the 3 x 500 MW electric power generation stations proposed to be built at the IB Valley site.

Metering of Local Calls

4106. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to meter local calls in areas covered by MTNL;

(b) whether there has been any opposition to the proposed scheme from urban subscribers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have decided to postpone the implementation of the said scheme;

(e) the additional revenue expected by adopting this measure; and

(f) the degree of decongestion of exchanges at busy hours?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The proposal to introduce time metering of local calls is under the consideration of the Government.